

Volume 2; Issue 2

March 2009



NORTH YAKIMA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MISSION STATEMENT

To make available technical, financial and educational resources to meet the conservation needs of the citizens who occupy and use the natural resources of the District.

NORTH YAKIMA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

March 2009

Volume 2; Issue 2

Conservation Districts: We're here to help

You've heard the joke, "we're from the government and we're here to help", how could anyone say those two things in the same sentence with a straight face? Well, you can if you're from a local Conservation District (CD).

Organized under State law (RCW 89.08), CD's are governed by local landowners who serve voluntarily to implement project/programs that protect, enhance and preserve natural resources. These Boards (47 in the State) develop Annual and 5-yr Plans, then seek grant funding or develop partnerships with other governmental entities to implement "on the ground" projects/programs that are designed to assist and benefit landowners with their natural resource needs.

The North Yakima Conservation Districts' Annual and 5-yr Plans (available on our website) implement many projects and programs listed in this and in past newsletters. Our programs and projects have been very active since 1989 and continue to address critical resource needs of your CD. The District has positioned itself with regulatory agencies to be the "go to resource for working voluntarily with farmers, ranchers and landowners". The NYCD prides itself with this unique governmental role.

If you have any question, concerns or suggestions for NYCD's Annual and / or 5-yr Plans please give me a call or e-mail note.

Thanks,

Michael Tobin NYCD Manager

454-5736 ext 5 or mike-tobin@wa.nacdnet.org.

We're on the Web!!

<http://www.nycd.scc.wa.gov>

MISSION STATEMENT

To make available technical, financial and educational resources to meet the conservation needs of the citizens who occupy and use the natural resources of the District.

Volume 2; Issue 2

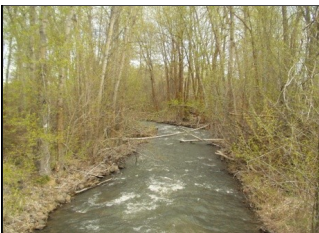
Page 2

Fish Screen Project—During and After Construction



Conservation Commission Water Resources Update for Eastern Washington

The Conservation Commission Water Resources staff continues to work towards involving the NYCD and other conservation districts into various grant programs offered by the federal and state governments for water conservation.



The Columbia River Program

(<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/cwp/crwmp.html>), through the Washington State Department of Ecology's new Office of the Columbia River, continues to be a resource to landowners and districts for water conservation projects. Last year Ecology funded over \$46 million in construction projects and feasibility studies in Eastern Washington under the Columbia River Program

(http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/cwp/cr_08fund.html).

A new opportunity is the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP), through the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), which also looks to be a source that districts can tap to fund projects. For more information, contact Bill Eller at the NYCD offices at 509-454-5736 x118.



For more information, please contact Bill Eller at beller@sec.wa.gov.

MISSION STATEMENT

To make available technical, financial and educational resources to meet the conservation needs of the citizens who occupy and use the natural resources of the District.

Do You Need a Water Meter?

Do you have a surface water right in Yakima County? Is your water use metered? If you have an un-metered surface water diversion in Yakima County enforcement of the Yakima Basin Metering Order by the State Department of Ecology may be coming soon. The NYCD has resources available to help water users pay for most of the costs of installing a water meter.

In the fall of 2005 the Yakima County Superior Court issued an order requiring all surface water rights below 2000 feet in elevation to have an approved water measuring device installed by April 2006, and all surface water rights above 2000 feet to have an approved water measuring device installed by April 2007. Those dates have now passed and there has not yet been any penalty for not complying with the order. However, with adjudication proceedings coming to an end in the Yakima Basin, Ecology is likely to begin ramping up enforcement of water rights, including enforcement of metering order requirements. There is still time to have a water meter installed and avoid any penalties for non-compliance or regulatory scrutiny from Ecology, but that time may be limited.



The Conservation District is accepting cost share applications for water metering and is committed to ensuring that water users do not face unnecessary costs. The application process is relatively simple, and for the majority of water meters, those under \$3,000, the NYCD will cover 100% after the first \$250. The NYCD can also provide technical assistance and can help with selecting a meter and finding a vendor. For more information, technical assistance and an application, contact Jeremy Lieb at (509) 454-5736 ext. 123 or jeremy-lieb@wa.nacdn.net.



MISSION STATEMENT

To make available technical, financial and educational resources to meet the conservation needs of the citizens who occupy and use the natural resources of the District.

Volume 2; Issue 2

Page 4

Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program (YTAHP)

The Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program (YTAHP) works to restore anadromous salmonid fish runs that were historically present within the Yakima River Basin. YTAHP works directly with voluntary private landowners to remove barriers inhibiting fish passage, screen irrigation diversions, as well as implement in-stream and riparian habitat in the local tributaries to the Yakima River.

YTAHP is funded through grants from the Bonneville Power Administration and works as a mechanism to aid private landowners to achieve compliance with laws requiring screening on irrigation withdrawals and to improve fish passage. It does this by working hand in hand with voluntary landowners by providing funding, planning, engineering, permitting, and construction needs.

YTAHP Partners:

North Yakima Conservation District, Kittitas County Conservation District, Ahtanum Irrigation District, South Central Washington Resource Conservation and Development Council, Kittitas Conservation Trust, Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group, and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Program Contact

Private landowners and anyone interested in the services offered by the YTAHP can contact Justin Bader at 509-454-5736 ext. 117 or email justin-bader@wa.nacdnet.org. Additional information and a summary of the programs accomplishments can be found on the NYCD website, <http://nycd.scc.wa.gov/ytahp.html>.



MISSION STATEMENT

To make available technical, financial and educational resources to meet the conservation needs of the citizens who occupy and use the natural resources of the District.

Volume 2; Issue 2

Page 5

Plant Material Facility

PLANT SALE!!!

The North Yakima Conservation District has two major plant sales per year.

– **SPRING SALE (March 27th 28th)**: bare-root plants are **pre-ordered** by customers on a first-come first serve basis. Orders are placed by returning an order form via fax or mail, or phoning the order. Interested individuals should contact the North Yakima Conservation District to be on our brochure mailing list which is usually mailed in February.

-**FALL SALE (September)** – potted plants are sold in a one-day, open-house, clearance manner in late September. Most advertisement is through our mailing list. Occasionally, an advertisement is made via newspaper or radio.

A combination of deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, and wildflowers are made available.



The majority of species are native to our area, although a few are non-native species which serve the primary function of windbreak.

Many conservation benefits are derived from the vegetation:

- Soil stabilization
- Shade, cover, habitat
- Wildlife food source
- Wind and energy reduction
- A source of clean oxygen
- Beauty and aesthetics

Irrigation Efficiencies Grant Program

If you are considering making improvements to your irrigation system the North Yakima Conservation District may be able to help. The Irrigation Efficiencies Program is designed to help water users switch to more efficient and cost effective management practices while protecting the saved water in the State's water trust. Examples of potentially eligible projects include, but are not limited to, piping leaky ditches and laterals, converting from flood to sprinkler irrigation, and conversion from wheel-lines to center-pivots. Land owners may receive up to 85% cost-share assistance for such improvements through the Irrigation Efficiencies program, and for many projects we have been successful in finding addition funding sources to cover all or a portion of the remaining 15%.

For information about the Irrigation Efficiencies Grant Program contact:

Jeremy Lieb

(509) 454-5736 ext. 123 or email jeremy-lieb@wa.nacdnet.org

MISSION STATEMENT

To make available technical, financial and educational resources to meet the conservation needs of the citizens who occupy and use the natural resources of the District.

Volume 2; Issue 2

Page 6

Best Management Practices - BMP's

The North Yakima Conservation District provides technical, financial, and educational assistance to meet the resource needs of the local land manager. The process begins when a landowner approaches the conservation district asking for some advice as to what he can do with his property to improve the natural resource values. Sometimes landowners know exactly what they want, and other times they are open to suggestions. These natural resource improvements can address fish & wildlife habitat, water quality, erosion, aesthetics, etc. Ultimately, the information from the conservation district provides a selection of alternatives to meet landowners' objectives, and then a conservation plan can be developed. A key element to the conservation plan is a long term relationship with the client.



Before BMP's



After BMP's

A plan identifies Best Management Practice's (BMP's) and technical knowledge that help achieve the landowners' objective. If the client chooses a BMP(s) and agrees to a conservation plan, the implementation can begin as soon as any necessary requirements/permits are obtained.

At this point, the landowner can implement the practices on their own, or the landowner can request that the NYCD search for programs and grants that can assist with the implementation of the BMP's within the planning document. Financial assistance can vary in terms of eligibility and available funding.

The North Yakima Conservation District has a program which emphasizes its efforts on water resources (combined water quality & quantity) and fish & wildlife. In general, the focus of these programs is lands within the floodplain and along the bank of a water body. We are providing technical and some financial assistance to landowners to provide guidance towards resource conservation, protection, and enhancement. A typical concern is a lack of trees and shrubs. The North Yakima Conservation District can recommend the appropriate tree and shrub establishment guidelines along with conservation benefits

For more information contact Brian Schmidt at (509) 454-5736 ext. 124 or email brian-schmidt@wa.nacdnet.org.

MISSION STATEMENT

To make available technical, financial and educational resources to meet the conservation needs of the citizens who occupy and use the natural resources of the District.

Volume 2; Issue 2

Page 7

Farm Financing Available from the Farm Service Agency

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides direct and guaranteed loan assistance to farmers and ranchers at all stages in their operation. It doesn't matter if you are just starting out or an established business looking to grow, change direction, or just get back on your feet. FSA provides financial assistance that helps sustain and grow American agriculture.

FSA has loans available to assist with purchase and development of farm ground, purchase of livestock and equipment, and to provide financing for annual crop/livestock production costs. FSA also has a rural youth loan program for kids between 10-21 who are involved with an organization like 4-H or FFA. Emergency loans to assist with recovery from losses due to a natural disaster are available when a county has been declared a disaster.

To be eligible for a FSA loan you must not be able to obtain credit from a traditional lender, have needed training and experience, operator of a family farm, and US citizen or legal resident.

If you have any questions about the loan programs available, please contact the FSA office at (509) 454-5746 ext. 2 and ask for Lisa, Scott, or Crispin.



**NORTH YAKIMA
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

1606 Perry Street Suite C
Yakima, WA 98902

Phone: 509-454-5736
Fax: 509-454-5682



We're on the Web!!	http://www.nycd.scc.wa.gov
---------------------------	--

